



December 1, 2009

Columbia/Walla Walla County News

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Farm Loan Staff

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County Committee

Dan McKinley, Chair
Jay Penner, V-Chair
Valerie Turner, Member

Office Staff

Christy Bell
Gerri Richter

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 7 COC election
- Dec. 10 Count Ballots (Walla Walla)
- Dec.14 Count Ballots (Dayton)
- Dec. 25 Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan. 1 Holiday, Office Closed



Payment Problems

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. County offices throughout the nation began issuing final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments as well as annual CRP payments in October. If you received an advance DCP or ACRE direct payment earlier this year, that amount was offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm or by a different county office. If you received multiple advance payments, they may all have been offset from one farm. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual payment amounts may look different than you expect, but the total of all your payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed.

FSA has been transitioning from an older computer system to an online software system to make these payments. The transition to the new system has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expect, or if you believe you are missing some payments, **please** let us know.

2010 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and/or ACRE has begun and will continue until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Potential ACRE payment rates for the 2009 ACRE participants will be determined at the end of the marketing year for each applicable crop. For wheat, the marketing year runs from June 1st through May 31st. Therefore we will know the actual National Marketing price in June 2010 for the 2009 marketing year. Any calculated 2009 ACRE payments will be issued in October 2010.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The much anticipated SURE program signup will soon be announced. SURE has been authorized in place of the previous adhoc disaster programs offered through FSA offices in prior years. The upcoming signup will cover eligible crop losses experienced in 2008. Payments will be issued to eligible producers in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE program guarantee and the total farm revenue for a producer. Please remember, to qualify for program payments under SURE, you must have had crop insurance coverage on all insurable crops and/or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all uninsurable crops of economic significance.

County office staffs are scheduled to attend training on the SURE program on December 2nd and 3rd. Signup dates and more information applicable to this

much awaited program will be provided after our training has been completed.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

The deadline to sign up for Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for spring planted crops, not insurable through your crop insurance agent is **March 15, 2010**. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. NAP applications for coverage must be filed using CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Columbia or Walla Walla County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: 509-382-2421 (Columbia County) or 509-522-6347 (Walla Walla County).

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

FSA – Lender of First Opportunity

The Farm Service Agency offers farm loan assistance to farmers and ranchers who have the experience and desire to own and operate their own farm or ranch, but who don't yet meet the qualifications to obtain financing from a traditional lender. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed loans. FSA has a variety of loans, including Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Emergency and Youth. To find out more about FSA's lending programs, contact Pam Castoldi, in the Walla Walla County FSA office. If you have questions about FSA's farm loan program, stop by the office, call or email Pam. Her contact information is on the first page of this newsletter.

Changes in Columbia & Walla Walla Counties

After serving as your Columbia County Executive Director for over 20 years, and Walla Walla County Director for over 13 years, it is with mixed emotions that I tell you I have applied for and been accepted into a new position as District Director for FSA. My years of service working in these two Counties have been extremely rewarding. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with all of you through the years.

I will begin my new role as District Director on January 4, 2010. As District Director, I will still be in this area, attending Committee meetings and working with office employees, so you will still see me from time to time.

The Columbia and Walla Walla Committees will be interviewing and selecting a new County Director within a few weeks.

The Columbia & Walla Walla County Office staff wish all of you the very best over the Holiday Season!